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Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01
CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00
EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01
INR-10 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01
OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02 /190 W
----------087412 112112Z /61
P 112017Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7414
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 3396

GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR STEVENSON LOS DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS:PLOS, CO
SUBJECT: LAW OF THE SEA: CONFERENCE DECISION ON THE PRESIDENCY:
THE COLOMBIAN POSITION

REF: GENEVA 05178

1. THE SUBJECT OF COLOMBIA'S NON-PARTICPATION IN THE APRIL 6
VOTE ONAMERASINGHE AS LOS PRESIDENT (PARA 4, REFTEL) CAME UP IN
SEPARATE CONVERSTATIONS BETWEEN POL COUNSELOR AND COLONEL LOND-
ONO, CHIEF, FOREIGN MINISTRY FRONTIER'S DIVISION, APRIL 7,AND ADMIR-
AL GUIDBERTO BARONA, CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS, COLOMBIAN NAVY,
APRIL 10. LONDONO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR LOS AT THE MINISTRY.
BARONA IS THE COLOMBIAN NAVY'S REPRESENTATIVE ON LOS MATTERS
AND AS SUCH HAS PARTICIPATED IN LOS CONFERENCES AND REPRESENTS
THE NAVY'S VIEWS IN GOC INTERNAL LOS POLICY DISCUSSION.

2. BOTH STATED THAT COLOMBIA'S NON-PARTICIPATION WAS EQUIVA-
LENT TO AN ABSTENTION, TO EXPRESS THE GOC'S DISAGREEMENT WITH
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THE TAKING OF A VOTE OVER AMERASINGHE'S CONTINUANCE AS PRESIDENT.
THE GOC PREFERRED STRONGLY THAT AMERIASINGHE BE CONTINUED
ON THE BASIS OF A CONSENSUS, IN DISAGREEMENT WITH A MAJORITY
OF THE LATIIN AMERICAN GROUP. THEY SAID COLOMBIA WOULD STRONGLY
SUPPORT AMERASINGHE AS LOS PRESIDENT AND AGAINST EFFORTS TO
GET HIM TO RESIGN.

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3. ADHERENCE TO INSTRUCTIONS BY COLOMBIAN DELEGATIONS AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES HAS IN THE PAST BEEN SPOTTY. THEY ARE SOMETIMES MORE RESPONSIVE TO PERSUASION FROM OTHER DELEGATIONS. IN VIEW OF THE CLEAR LINE EXPRESSED BY LONDONO AND BARONA, WE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED IF THE COLOMBIAN DELEGATION DEPARTS FROM THIS LINE SO THAT, IF THE DEPARTMENT CONCURS, THE EMBASSY CAN ADVISE APPROPRIATE GOC OFFICIALS.
ASENCIO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, LAW OF THE SEA, PRESIDENT, MEETING VOTING RECORDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BOGOTA03396
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780156-0213
Format: TEL
From: BOGOTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780472/aaaacixp.tel
Line Count: 70
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 905220b3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION DLOS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 GENEVA 5178
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3014804
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LAW OF THE SEA: CONFERENCE DECISION ON THE PRESIDENCY: THE COLOMBIAN POSITION
TAGS: PLOS, CO, LOS
To: STATE GENEVA
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/905220b3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014